



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Leonard K. Peters, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Lynn True  
502-564-4496

### **Kentucky Division of Forestry Receives Toyota Grant** *Funding will help promote Save Kentucky's Hemlocks project*

**FRANKFORT, Ky.** (April 15, 2011) –The Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) received a \$15,000 grant from Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky earlier this week during an on-site presentation of nearly \$90,000 given to five environmental programs across the Commonwealth. The funding will help KDF educate private landowners about the devastation caused by the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), an aphid-like insect that threatens the health of eastern hemlock trees.

Specifically, KDF will work through the Save Kentucky's Hemlocks project and partner with the University of Kentucky's Cooperative Extension Service to produce a step-by-step guide for landowners on how to treat hemlock trees from infestations of HWA.

"This grant will assist the division in controlling and managing one of the biggest insect threats to Kentucky's forests," said Director Leah W. MacSwords. "Kentucky's forests contain over 76 million eastern hemlock trees and the potential for HWA to destroy hemlock populations would have a profound impact on forest ecosystems. Fortunately, this grant will assist us in detecting, eradicating and preventing the spread of this insect and subsequent decline of hemlocks."

Since 2006, HWA infestations have been found in 19 Kentucky counties. The insect, which feeds on the hemlock's needles and reproduces exponentially,

has the potential to spread rapidly and kill the tree if it is not treated in a timely manner. Many experts believe that the adverse effects from HWA could be as severe as the chestnut blight, and that we may lose our hemlocks just as we lost the American chestnut tree.

Treatment options for HWA infestations include systemic insecticides containing imidicloprad through soil drenching, soil injection and/or trunk injection. These types of treatments may remain effective for two to five years. Trees may also be sprayed with insecticidal soaps and horticultural oils during March through April and from September to October. This type of treatment may be needed during both the spring and fall or at least annually.

For more information about how you can help protect our native hemlocks, visit Save Kentucky's Hemlocks website at [www.kyhemlocks.org](http://www.kyhemlocks.org). Citizens are asked to notify forestry officials of infestations by contacting KDF's main office at 502-564-4496.

###